

REMARKS

Claims 25 - 44 were pending in the present application. Claims 25, 32 and 38 have been amended. Claims 29, 36 and 42 have been canceled. Claims 25 – 28, 30 – 35, 37 – 41, 43 and 44 remain pending in the present application.

Claims 25, 26, 30 – 32, 33, 37 – 39 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (U.S. Patent 6,564,219, hereinafter ‘Lee’) in view of Amatsu et al. (U.S. Patent 5,471,615, hereinafter ‘Amatsu’). Claims 27, 28, 34, 35, 40 and 41 were rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Amatsu further in view of Ofek et al. (U.S. Patent 6,385,706). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, and reserves the right to file one or more continuation applications directed to the subject matter of the rejected claims. However, to expedite issuance and in view of the Examiner’s indication of allowability of claims 29, 36 and 42, Applicant has amended independent claims 25, 32 and 48 as described below, thus rendering the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) moot.

The Examiner indicated that claims 29, 36 and 42 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 25, 32 and 38 have therefore been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claims 29, 36 and 42 respectively. Amended independent claims 25, 32 and 38 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Since the remaining claims depend on claims 25, 32 or 38, the remaining claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5760-16900/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



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